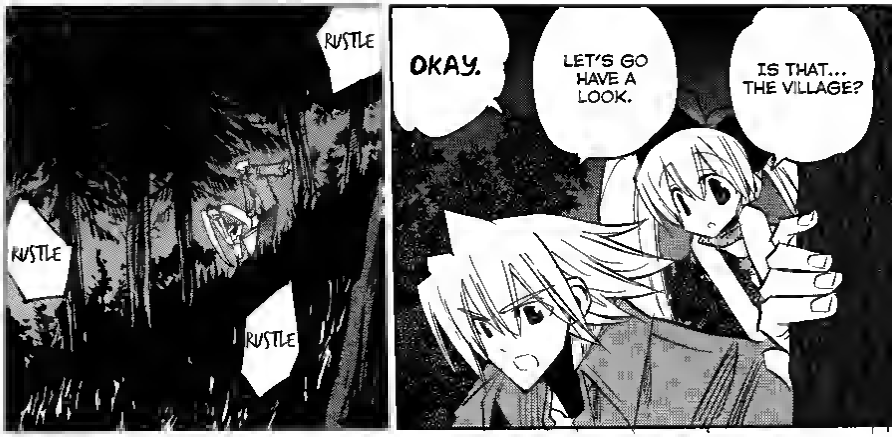
YUP! I'M POSITIVE.
Rustle
IS IT... REALLY THIS WAY?
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
!
Rustle
THAT'S...
CHAPTER SIX: SHIRASUNA VILLAGE

A SHRINE!!
.....

THIS IS IT! THERE MUST BE A VILLAGE NEARBY!
OOGAMI?
RUSTLE
...THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...!
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

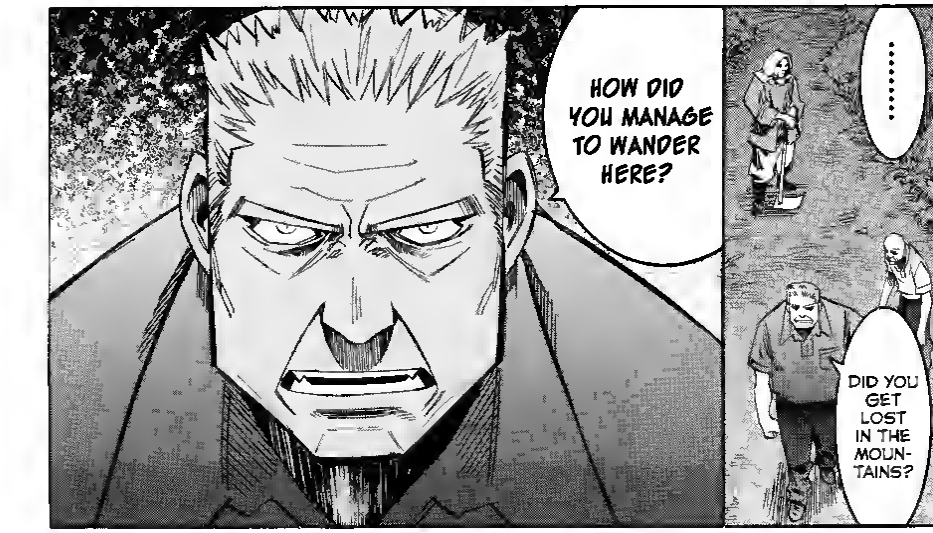
TH-
..
THE GROUND... IS GLOWING WITH A FAINT ASHEN LIGHT...!
THAT LIGHT... WAS WHAT MADE THE FOREST GLOW...
...BUT WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ELECTRICAL LIGHTING...

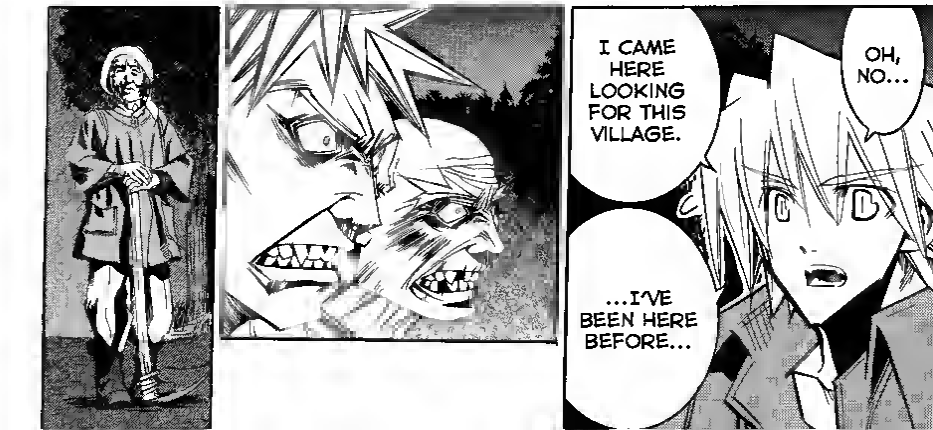

IS THAT... THE VILLAGE?
LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK.
OKAY.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

AAH ...!

EXCUSE ME!
THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE!!
IS THIS... SHIRASUNA VILLAGE?
UM... I HAVE A QUESTION.
Rustle
!!

IS THERE... SOMEWHERE I CAN STAY...?


HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO WANDER HERE?
.....
DID YOU GET LOST IN THE MOUN-TAINS?


I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR THIS VILLAGE.
OH, NO...
...I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...

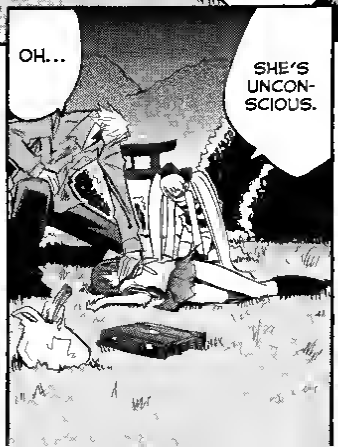
THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOU TO STAY HERE!!!
GET OUT!!!
PLEASE, LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY. AT THE VERY LEAST, LET ME STAY...
W... WAIT A SECOND. I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FROM TOKYO.
SORRY, BUT GO BACK. IF YOU MANAGED TO FIND YOUR WAY IN HERE, YOU CAN FIND YOUR WAY OUT.
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
THIS IS NOT A SUMMER RESORT!!!
NOW GET OUT!!!

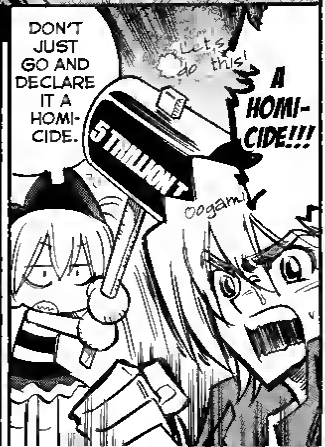
SO THAT'S SHIRA-SUNA VILLAGE...
Caw!
Caw!
.....
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S BECAUSE OF HOW YOU LOOK.
...YEAH.
Caw!
Caw!
IT MIGHT BE SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE EYEBALL...
I WANT TO KNOW WHY THE VILLAGERS DON'T LIKE OUTSIDERS...
WHAT DO WE DO? WE CAN'T GET IN.
I GET HUNGRY AND CHANGE MY CLOTHES TOO!
DON'T COMPARE ME TO THOSE LOW-LEVEL SPIRITS, OKAY?
WAIT. WHY THE HECK ARE YOU GETTING HUNGRY?
You won't die again even if you don't eat, right?
WORST COME TO WORST, WE'LL HAVE TO PUT UP A NEURAL FIELD TO SNEAK IN...
AND I'M SO HUNGRY...
IT'S LIKE WE'RE BURGLARS.
At the River Styx and stuff
WHAT ABOUT BATHS?
IT'S GETTING COLD EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUM-MER...
YEAH... I'M THIRSTY TOO...

HUH?
HEY, KAZA-RI...
HOW DID YOU DIE?
THAT WAS A BATH-ROBE!
OHH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE WEARING THOSE WHITE CEREMONIAL ROBES THAT TIME I SUDDENLY SUMMONED YOU?
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM WHEN I WAS ALIVE
NO... NAH, IT'S FINE.
SORRY. GUESS I SHOULDN'T ASK ABOUT THAT.
OH...
I DUNNO WHY, BUT I REALLY WANTED TO GIVE THAT TO HIM.
I THINK I WAS GOING TO GIVE A PRESENT TO A BOY.
THIS WAS... A REALLY TERRIBLE DAY.
SIGH...
KAZARI?
.....
...THAT'S ALL.

きゃっ
!
ガサ ガサ
WHAT?
OOGAMI! COME HERE!
HUH?
KAZARI! I'M SORRY, OKAY? DON'T CRY!
THESE ARE THE SHRINE'S JIZO STATUES...
OVER HERE, OOGAMI!

I SUP-
POSE.
IS SHE FROM SHIRA-SUNA VILLAGE?


OH...
SHE'S UNCON-SCIOUS.


DON'T JUST GO AND DECLARE IT A HOMI-CIDE.
Let's do this!
A HOMI-CIDE!!!
5 TRILLION Y
Oogami

I WONDER WHERE HER HOUSE IS.
NO IDEA, SO WE CAN JUST LEAVE HER SOMEWHERE OBVIOUS.
IS THAT THE VILLAGE OFFICE?
DON'T GO OUT OF THE NEURAL FIELD, KAZARI. YOU'LL BE SEEN.
LET'S LEAVE HER THERE.
THIS SHOULD DO IT.
There we go.
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.
OKAY.

WOAH! YOU SCARED ME!
HEY! THERE'S A GIRL SLEEPING HERE!
ISN'T SHE NISHIJIMA-SAN'S DAUGHTER!?
MIZUHA-CHAN! ARE YOU OKAY!?
HEY, CALL NISHIJIMA-SAN!

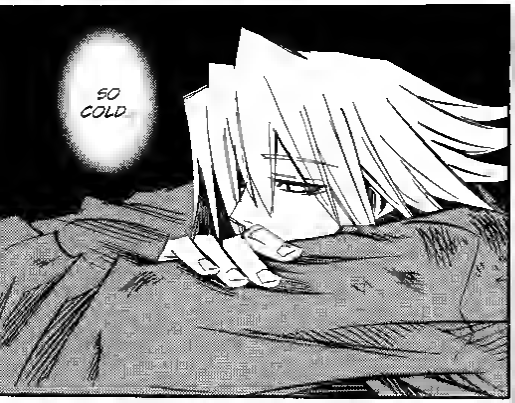
OKAY...
WHAT DO WE DO...

IN THE END

WE HAD TO COME BACK HERE

I'M SO WEAK...
EVEN IF I'M STRONG COMPARED TO OTHER HUMANS, I'M AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP IN MY LINE OF WORK...!
JUST WHAT WAS I SO PROUD OF?
BUT JUST WHO DO I THINK I AM? NOBODY EVEN NEEDS ME !
NO FRIENDS, AND NO PEACE IN MY LIFE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE DESTINY OF THE CHOSEN TO BE ALONE

OOGAMI'S BEEN REALLY QUIET EVER SINCE HE NEARLY GOT KILLED BY THAT TSUKUYOMI-NO-IRATSUME PERSON
IS HE OKAY ?
PATHE-TIC...


SO COLD

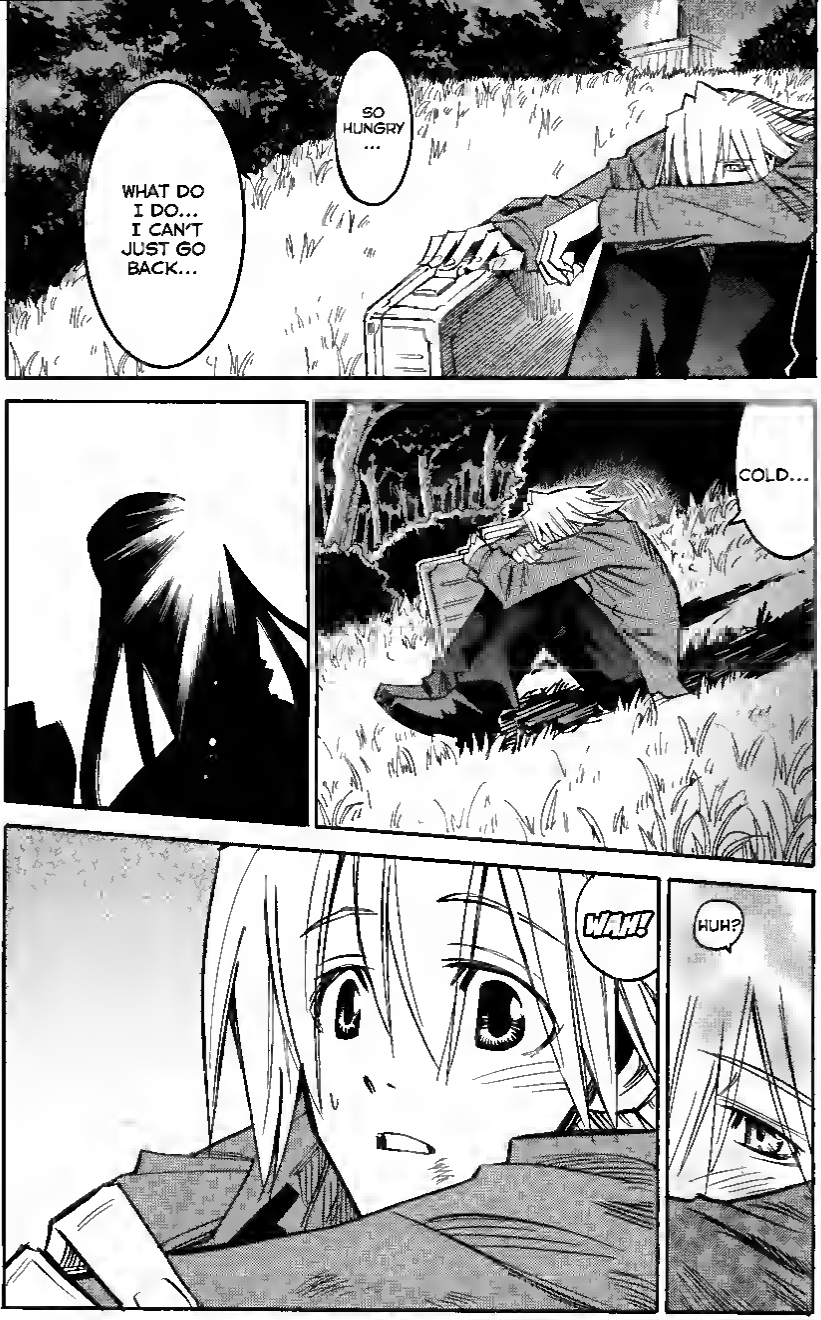
... GOOD NIGHT.

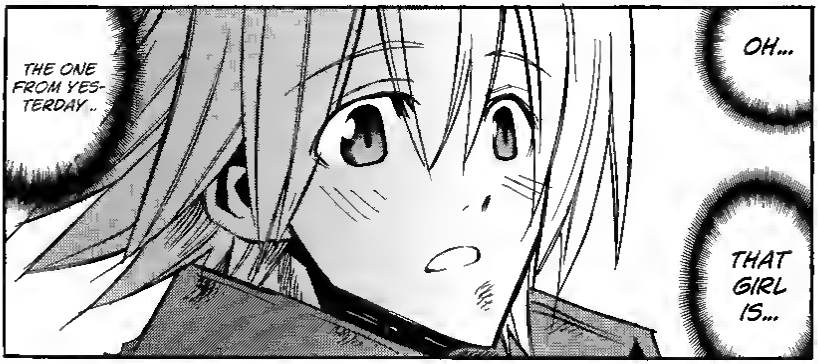
LET US CREATE THE WORLD
NOW

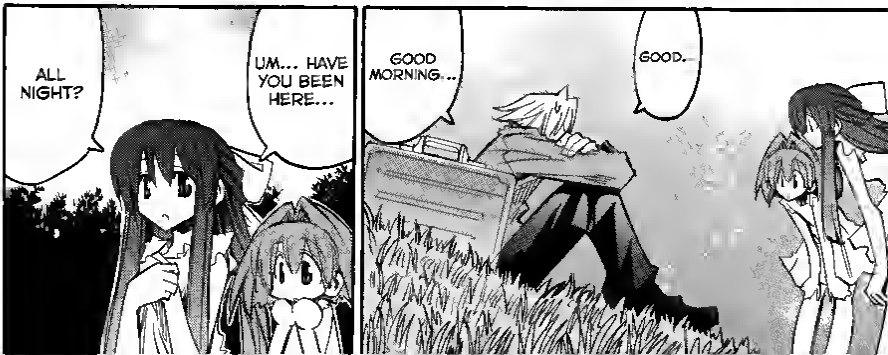
GIVE BIRTH TO THE LAND.
AND CREATE THE GODS AND LIVING THINGS.
SET APART DAY AND NIGHT AND DIVIDE THE SEASONS.
...IZANAMI.

AUGUST
5TH

IT'S
MOR-
NING


WHAT DO I DO... I CAN'T JUST GO BACK...
SO HUNGRY ...
COLD...
WAH!
HUH?


OH...
THAT GIRL IS...
THE ONE FROM YESTERDAY..


GOOD.
GOOD MORNING...
UM... HAVE YOU BEEN HERE...
ALL NIGHT?

I HEARD FROM THE VILLAGERS THAT AN OUTSIDER CAME HERE LAST NIGHT...
THAT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
... YES.
SORRY. I HAVE BUSINESS IN THIS VILLAGE.
I SEE ...
AL-RIGHT
WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND ME HERE.
SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO CHASE ME OUT TOO.
きゃっ!!

I'LL COME AGAIN.

WOULD YOU... LIKE TO COME TO MY HOUSE?

HUH?
IT'S SUMMER, SO I'M NOT GOING TO FREEZE TO DEATH.
BUT... UH.
YOU'RE IN A BIND, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, COME ON OVER!
ER, NO, I CAN'T JUST STAY AT SOMEBODY'S HOUSE...
COME AGAIN?
THAT'S WHY THERE AREN'T ANY FAMILIES HERE THAT RUN AN INN.
THE FOUNDERS OF THIS VILLAGE HATED OUTSIDERS, SO THEY ESTABLISHED IT THIS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO RESERVED.

くるっ
AH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
LET'S GO, THEN.
I SEE...
WELCOME
TO SHIRASUNA VILLAGE.
A MYSTERIOUS LANDSCAPE
RESEMBLING CLOUDS, OR PERHAPS A WHITE, FLOWING RIVER...
sparkle
sparkle
"WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?" THAT WAS HOW HE TRULY FELT THEN.
AND THEN
HE WAS ABLE TO SEE THE VILLAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME

白砂村
SHIRASUNA VILLAGE.
Volume One: End

KAZARI-CHAN'S DETECTIVE FILES

NUMBER 5

CLASSIFICATION OF VENGEFUL SPIRITS

WHAT'S UP! IT'S KAZARI!

IN THIS SECTION, I'LL LOOK INTO MYSTERIES RELATED TO SHIRASUNA VILLAGE FOR YOU, LIKE THE EXCELLENT DETECTIVE THAT I AM!
THIS TIME, I'VE INVESTIGATED THE CLASSIFICATIONS AND THREAT LEVELS OF THE SPIRITS IN THIS MANGA. IT SEEMED KINDA DIFFICULT, SO I SWIPED AN INTERNAL DOCUMENT FROM GOD UNDERTAKER HQ TITLED "CLASSIFICATION OF VENGEFUL SPIRITS." I'LL JUST READ FROM IT.

I'M INTRODUCING THEM STARTING FROM THE WEAKEST!★

DISEMBODIED SOUL

SOULS OF HUMANS THAT HAUNT GRAVEYARDS, ECTOPLASM, OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES, AND SO ON FALL UNDER THIS CATEGORY. MOST OF THEM HAVE INSUFFICIENT SPIRITUAL POWER TO CAUSE POSSESSION, AND IN MANY CASES ARE NOT EVEN SELF-AWARE.
THIS CAN BE SAID TO BE THE STATE SHORTLY AFTER DEATH BUT BEFORE AN EGO HAS TAKEN SHAPE IN THE FORM OF A GHOST. POWERFUL VENGEFUL SPIRITS ALSO FREQUENTLY APPEAR CLAD IN SEVERAL DISEMBODIED SOULS.
IN A NUTSHELL, **THESE ARE THE SPIRITS WITH THE LOWEST SPIRITUAL POWER.**

THREAT ★

ANIMAL SPIRIT

GENERALLY THE **SPIRITS OF DEAD ANIMALS**. IT SEEMS THAT THESE OFTEN POSSESS PEOPLE WITHOUT REVEALING THEMSELVES.
COMPARED TO ALL THE OTHER SPIRITS THAT HOLD GRUDGES AND ARE SELF-AWARE, THESE ARE RELATIVELY WEAK AND DO NOT POSSESS THAT MUCH SPIRITUAL POWER. THE SPIRITS OF HUMAN CHILDREN AND SOME ANIMAL SPIRITS, HOWEVER, ARE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE, AS WELL AS THEIR LACK OF SELF-AWARENESS AND INTELLIGENCE. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THEIR STRENGTH AS SPIRITS IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE STRENGTH OF THEIR FEELINGS. THERE ARE CASES WHERE THESE HAVE SPIRITUAL POWER ON THE LEVEL OF A VENGEFUL SPIRIT-CLASS. YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL OUT THERE~

THREAT ★★

EARTH-BOUND SPIRIT

THESE REFER TO **SPIRITS THAT ARE UNABLE TO MOVE ABOUT** AND ARE BOUND TO THE PLACE THEIR BODIES DIED, OR TO THE PLACE THEY HAVE GREAT EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO. SECTIONS OF ROADS THAT HAVE GREAT VISIBILITY YET FOR SOME REASON HAVE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS FREQUENTLY ARE USUALLY POSSESSED BY EARTHBOUND SPIRITS. A CHARACTERISTIC OF THESE IS THAT **THEY DRAW IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMPATIBLE SPIRITUAL WAVELENGTHS**. MOST EARTHBOUND SPIRITS HAVE SPIRITUAL POWERS THAT GROW AS THEY KILL MORE HUMANS. AS LONG AS YOU DON'T ENTER THE AREA, THOUGH, OR IF YOUR SPIRITUAL WAVELENGTH DOES NOT MATCH THAT OF THE SPIRIT, THESE POSE NO DANGER. BY THE WAY, EARTHBOUND SPIRITS THAT ONLY WISH TO WATCH OVER THE LIVING WORLD FROM THEIR PLACE AND CAUSE NO MISCHIEF EXIST. THAT'S WHY THERE'S NO NEED TO EXORCISE ALL OF THEM.

THREAT ★★★

EVIL SPIRIT

MOST SPIRITS - **ANCESTRAL SPIRITS** AND **GUARDIAN SPIRITS** LIKE ME, FOR EXAMPLE - DO NOT EXERT ANY INFLUENCE ON LIVING HUMANS. THAT SAID, **OUT OF THE MALICIOUS SPIRITS THAT HAVE ENOUGH SPIRITUAL POWER TO INFLICT HARM ON HUMANS, THERE ARE THE EVIL SPIRITS THAT FALL UNDER NEITHER THE LIVING SPIRIT NOR THE EARTHBOUND SPIRIT CLASSIFICATIONS.**
THEY GROW AND HEAL BY STEALING SPIRITUAL POWER FROM ONE ANOTHER AND FROM HUMANS. HORRIBLE THINGS.

THREAT ★★★★

THE TERM "LIVING SPIRIT" REFERS TO THE MOST POWERFUL OF ECTOPLASM AND OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES, AS WELL AS STRONG CURSES THAT CAN BE CAST WITH NEITHER CEREMONIES NOR TOOLS. CASES WHERE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE UNCONSCIOUS ON A HOSPITAL BED ARE SEEN IN TOWN, OR HAVING SOMEBODY WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE SHOW UP IN A PHOTO ARE USUALLY THE WORK OF LIVING SPIRITS. THE PHYSICAL BODIES AND SPIRITS OF NORMAL PEOPLE ARE SEPARATED FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN THEY DIE. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF LIVING SPIRITS, THEY FLY OUT OF THEIR BODIES WHILE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE WITH THEIR POWERFUL GRUDGE, CURSING OR KILLING OTHER PEOPLE. IF THEIR GRUDGE IS STRONG ENOUGH, THEY CAN MATERIALIZE AND BE TOUCHED. THEY'RE DIFFICULT TO TELL APART FROM VENGEFUL SPIRITS, AREN'T THEY~?
THERE ARE MANY CASES WHERE THEY APPEAR NOT BECAUSE THE ACTUAL PERSON DELIBERATELY WANTED THEM TO, BUT BECAUSE OF A SUBCONSCIOUS GRUDGE. THEY THEN BRING MISERY TO OTHERS WHILE BEING OBLIVIOUS TO IT ALL THE WHILE. IT IS SAID THAT IF THE LIVING SPIRIT MEETS WITH THE PERSON HIMSELF, IT WILL RESULT IN DEATH. IT ALSO SAYS HERE THAT IN LAYMAN'S TERMS, THIS IS CALLED THE DOPPELGANGER PHENOMENON.

THE EVER-SINCE-I-WENT-TO-THAT-PLACE-MY-SHOULDERS-HAVE-BEEN-STIFF PHENOMENON IS WHAT WE CALL "BRINGING IT HOME." THESE ARE SPIRITS THAT POSSESS HUMANS TO DO EVIL.
EARTHBOUND SPIRITS AND OTHER SPIRITS WITHOUT THE POWER TO MOVE SOMETIMES POSSESS HUMANS TO SIPHON SPIRITUAL POWER FROM THEM. THERE ARE ALSO CASES WHERE THEY MANIPULATE POSSESSED HUMANS TO SATISFY THEIR GRUDGE.
ON TOP OF THAT, IF EXORCISM FAILS AND THE HUMAN IS POSSESSED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THE PERSON'S SOUL WILL GRADUALLY BE EATEN AWAY, AND THE POSSESSING SPIRIT WILL TAKE OVER THE BODY. SCARY!
TV AND STUFF OFTEN HAS MEDIUMS REMOVING POSSESSING SPIRITS. TO BE EXACT, THAT'S NOT EXORCISM, BUT RATHER APPEASING THE POSSESSING SPIRIT THROUGH DISCUSSION.
APPARENTLY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TEAR OFF A POSSESSING SPIRIT BY FORCE, EXCEPT FOR EXPERIENCED ONMYOUJI AND SHINTO PRIESTS.
GOD UNDERTAKERS ARE THOSE WHO SPECIALIZE IN BEATING UP VENGEFUL SPIRITS, SO THEY ARE BAD AT EXORCISING POSSESSING SPIRITS. WATCH OUT IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW SUDDENLY CHANGES HIS PERSONALITY OR HIS TASTE IN CLOTHES.
SIGNS THAT A PERSON IS POSSESSED INCLUDE TALKING ABOUT THINGS HE SHOULDN'T KNOW AND SEEMINGLY BECOMING A DIFFERENT PERSON. THESE SYMPTOMS CAN BE MIXED UP WITH REINCARNATION, SUPERPOWERS, AND SPLIT PERSONALITIES, SO THESE SPIRITS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

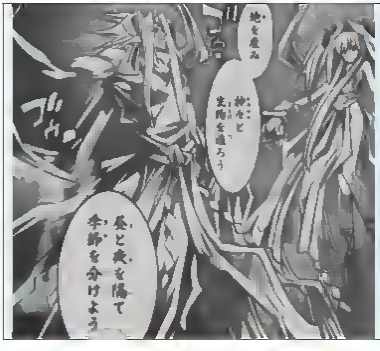
AMONGST THE SPIRITS THAT BRING CALAMITY TO LIVING HUMANS, THOSE IN THIS CLASS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL AFTER SPIRIT GODS.
AS VENGEFUL SPIRITS ARE ABLE TO SHAPE THEMSELVES DEPENDING ON THE STRENGTH OF THEIR FEELINGS AND HOW DEEP THEIR GRUDGE RUNS, THERE ARE MANY HUMAN SPIRITS THAT DO NOT TAKE THE FORM OF HUMANS.
AS THEY EAT ONE ANOTHER AND HUMANS, THEY WILL GET MORE AND MORE POWERFUL WITHOUT LIMIT, EVENTUALLY BECOMING SPIRIT GODS. THERE ARE MANY THAT DO NOT HAVE MEMORIES OF WHEN THEY WERE STILL ALIVE, AND THEIR ACTIONS ARE DICTATED BY A STRONG GRUDGE. HOWEVER, THEIR GREAT INTELLIGENCE SIMPLY CANNOT BE COMPARED TO OTHER SPIRITS, SO ONMYOUJI, SHINTO PRIESTS, PSYCHICS, AND SO ON ARE OFTEN UNABLE TO STAND UP TO THEM. THESE VENGEFUL SPIRITS ARE WHAT WE UNDERTAKERS ERADICATE MOST OFTEN.

JUST AS THEIR NAME IMPLIES, SPIRIT GODS HOLD AS MUCH POWER AS GODS. THESE REFER TO THE MOST POWERFUL OF VENGEFUL SPIRITS.
THOSE THAT ARE WORSHIPPED AT SHINTO SHRINES AS GODS ARE EXAMPLES OF THESE. BUT THE WRATH OF THESE BEFALL THE LIVING IN THE FORM OF THUNDER AND EARTHQUAKES. THEY ARE ABLE TO LIVE FOREVER UNLESS A BUDDHIST MEMORIAL SERVICE IS HELD FOR THEM.
ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT, MANY OF THESE HAVE BEEN DEFEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, BUT RESURRECT EVERY TIME, OR COULD NOT BE DEFEATED AT ALL, AND SLEEP BENEATH THE EARTH UNDER BURIAL MOUNDS, TEMPLES, AND SHRINES UNDER THE GUARD OF MANY BARRIERS.
IF THE EPITOMES OF VIRTUE AND NEUTRALITY ARE GODS, THEN THE EPITOME OF EVIL WOULD BE THESE SPIRIT GODS. DEFEATING THESE SPIRIT GODS IS QUITE DIFFICULT, EVEN FOR EXCELLENT GOD UNDERTAKERS.
BY THE WAY, WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY FOUGHT ANY SPIRIT GODS BEFORE. I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE~(Д)

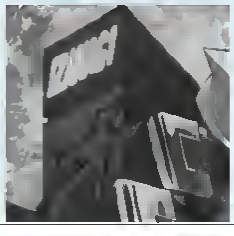
THAT'S ALL! DID YOU GET IT? THAT WAS KAZARI'S DETECTIVE FILE!
SEE YOU AGAIN!

Stuff

Photographs filched from author's webpage except where indicated
To be taken with a pinch of salt

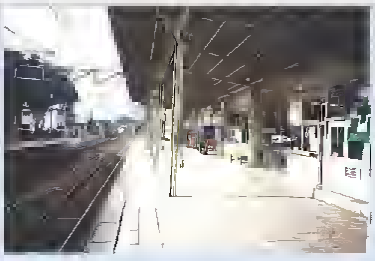


The man in this scene calls the woman "Izanami". Izanami is the wife and little sister of Izanagi. Izanami and Izanagi are the gods responsible for the creation of land (the archipelego of Japan) and the birth of other gods in Japanese mythology

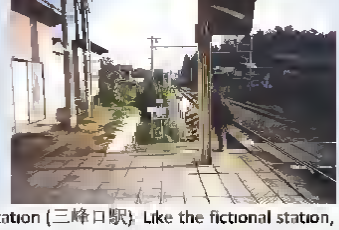


Special Killing Technique Sea Quake 特攻式殺人術震洋
Tsukuyominoiratsume later talks about how these techniques were developed by the Japanese military during the great war. The 特攻/特別攻撃 bit (lit. special attack) refers to missions where death is assumed. These could possibly be equated to suicide attacks. Kamikaze is one of these special attack tactics.

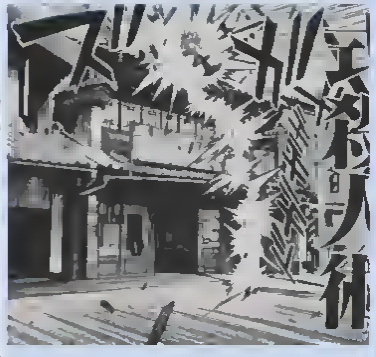
The Sea Quake here is probably a reference to another type of these, namely the explosive-laden motorboats in WW2. Look up "Shinyo".
Below: nice boat.
(Source: http://blogs.yahoo.co.jp/misakimichi)



Google maps →



Ryougami Station: Based off Mitsumineguchi Station (三峰口駅). Like the fictional station, this is the final stop of the Chichibu Railway line.



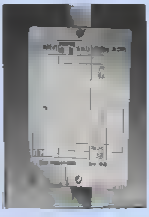
Google maps →

Ryougami Village

The above scene was based off Kawagoe City (川越市), in Saitama Prefecture. Ryoukami Village uses the same characters in its name as the fictional Ryougami Village (両神村), but these names is pronounced slightly differently. According to the author, Ryoukami Village (the real one) is comprised of several smaller villages.

This particular place is the storehouse street (蔵作りの町並み), where there are Edo-period storehouses that held commodities. Their fire-resistant design results in their distinct look. The scene featured is located at the junction of Saitama Prefectural Road 39 (県道 39 号線) and Kanetsuki Dori (鐘つき通り).

Unidentified shrine
Based off Ryoukami Shrine (両神神社). According to some webpage, praying at this shrine wards off misfortune, grants safety in the mountains, and also wards off four-legged creatures. People call the wolf god enshrined there Ooguchimanokami (大口真神).



Top: Bus schedule in Ryougami Village. Real-life counterpart in Ryoukami Village at the top-right. Right: Note that the Imakami Village (今神) sign is also listed as a destination in the fictional bus schedule. The author notes that if you add one more character, it becomes his name (今井神). Imakami Village might be one of the villages within Ryoukami Village. Below: the bus going to Shirasuna Village, possibly modeled after the bus service running within Ryoukami Village.

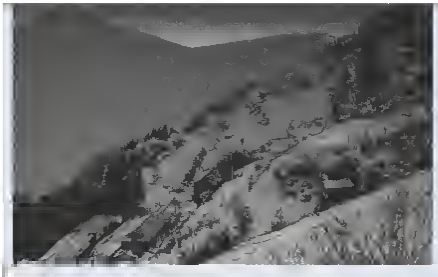
Lake near Shirasuna Village
Real-life counterpart: Chichibu Lake (秩父湖), a man-made lake held up by the Futase Dam (二瀬ダム). The author mentions the famous suspension bridge that runs across it. This suspension bridge, according to a website*, is haunted by a female spirit with a rank 2 danger level.

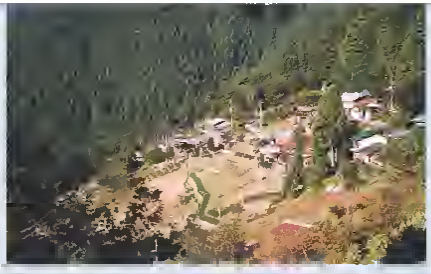
Two rivers feed into this lake – the Oobora River (大洞川) and Arakawa River (荒川). The river running out from the dam is also named Arakawa River, and continues flowing all the way south-east through Tokyo, eventually flowing out into Tokyo Bay.

Around this lake lies the Chichibu Tama Kai National Park (秩父多摩甲斐国立公園). Photo on the right was taken from the peak of Ryougami Mt., from Japan's Ministry of Environment page. Ryoukami Mt. is north-west of the real Ryoukami Village.

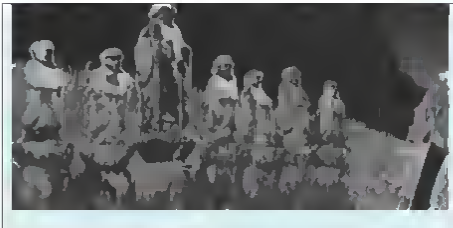
* http://www.k4.dion.ne.jp/~sinrei/titibuko.html

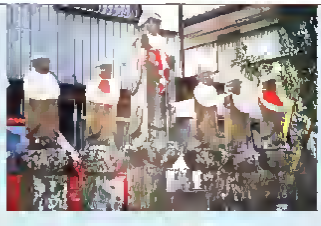
Shirasuna Village Office
Real-life house in Ryoukami Village.



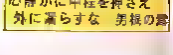


Shirasuna Village. Real-life: Tochimoto Village (栃本)
Possibly another village in Ryoukami Village





30 Jizo statues on the grounds of Ryougami Shrine. Real-life: Jizo statues at Ryuuseki Temple, 15-31 Obatake Town, Chichibu City, Saitama Prefecture. (龍石寺, 秩父市大畑町 15 番 31 号)



Still your heart and hold it down by the middle
Spill not
the phallus's dew
- Sign at public washroom near Chichibu Lake

白砂村
巻一
SHIRASUNAMURA
CHAPTER 6
RAWS: JAGMANIX
TRANSLATION: KABITE
EDITING: JAGMANIX, AIZENDIFAIZEL
今井神